

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,820

2
00:00:10,820 --> 00:00:13,580
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:13,580 --> 00:00:15,740
Memorial Museum
volunteer collection

4
00:00:15,740 --> 00:00:18,470
interview with Julie Keefer.

5
00:00:18,470 --> 00:00:21,290
This is track number two.

6
00:00:21,290 --> 00:00:24,560
And you were talking about
coming to the United States

7
00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:29,560
and then coming, and your aunt
was downstairs discussing you.

8
00:00:29,560 --> 00:00:32,380
Mm-hmm.

9
00:00:32,380 --> 00:00:38,240
But first I've got to just
backtrack a little bit.

10
00:00:38,240 --> 00:00:41,810
The nuns-- I remember
one of the nuns taking me

11
00:00:41,810 --> 00:00:45,840
to a park somewhere in New York.

12
00:00:45,840 --> 00:00:52,430
And in the park I saw a little

girl probably around my age.

13

00:00:52,430 --> 00:00:53,210

I was seven.

14

00:00:53,210 --> 00:00:56,120

15

00:00:56,120 --> 00:00:59,400

And I looked at her.

16

00:00:59,400 --> 00:01:03,090

And I figured out how
it was that Americans

17

00:01:03,090 --> 00:01:11,980

could make those strange
sounds like three and through--

18

00:01:11,980 --> 00:01:14,590

because they had
special throats.

19

00:01:14,590 --> 00:01:18,640

And those throats came out.

20

00:01:18,640 --> 00:01:22,420

And-- because I had never
seen bubble gum before.

21

00:01:22,420 --> 00:01:25,960

And this girl was
blowing a bubble.

22

00:01:25,960 --> 00:01:27,310

She was blowing her throat out.

23

00:01:27,310 --> 00:01:29,450

Yes, to make those funny sounds.

24

00:01:29,450 --> 00:01:29,950

Mm-hmm.

25
00:01:29,950 --> 00:01:31,630
Mm-hmm.

26
00:01:31,630 --> 00:01:32,560
So I remember that.

27
00:01:32,560 --> 00:01:35,944

28
00:01:35,944 --> 00:01:40,100
And now I'm back
with Aunt Siegel--

29
00:01:40,100 --> 00:01:42,350
no, Aunt Helen.

30
00:01:42,350 --> 00:01:51,230
Aunt Helen Fichtenbaum was my
grandfather's youngest sibling.

31
00:01:51,230 --> 00:01:56,450
And she shared a house with
her older sister, Rosa,

32
00:01:56,450 --> 00:01:57,230
who was widowed.

33
00:01:57,230 --> 00:02:00,610

34
00:02:00,610 --> 00:02:04,240
And Rosa had a
daughter, Elaine--

35
00:02:04,240 --> 00:02:11,740
Yitta, who was 16.

36
00:02:11,740 --> 00:02:20,800
And Aunt Helen had a
daughter, Perry, who was 12,

37

00:02:20,800 --> 00:02:24,900
and a husband, Jake.

38

00:02:24,900 --> 00:02:29,070
And they lived in
half of a duplex

39

00:02:29,070 --> 00:02:31,965
in a very Orthodox
section of Brooklyn.

40

00:02:31,965 --> 00:02:34,480

41

00:02:34,480 --> 00:02:38,440
And the first thing
that I remember

42

00:02:38,440 --> 00:02:43,540
was I Aunt Helen taking
me to their bathroom

43

00:02:43,540 --> 00:02:51,460
and cutting my hair because she
was very sure that I had lice.

44

00:02:51,460 --> 00:02:57,120
So she cut my hair, which
made me cry, because I was

45

00:02:57,120 --> 00:02:58,660
so proud of not having lice.

46

00:02:58,660 --> 00:03:01,590

47

00:03:01,590 --> 00:03:04,480
It was a big thing.

48

00:03:04,480 --> 00:03:14,970
And then I was a student at the
local elementary school where

49

00:03:14,970 --> 00:03:20,730

the only teacher in the school
who spoke any language I did

50

00:03:20,730 --> 00:03:24,390

was the kindergarten
teacher, who spoke German.

51

00:03:24,390 --> 00:03:29,310

What languages, by that old
age of seven, did you know?

52

00:03:29,310 --> 00:03:39,580

Oh, I knew a little bit of
Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish,

53

00:03:39,580 --> 00:03:45,388

German, and Ukrainian.

54

00:03:45,388 --> 00:03:46,780

Any Russian?

55

00:03:46,780 --> 00:03:48,220

A little bit.

56

00:03:48,220 --> 00:03:50,320

Very little.

57

00:03:50,320 --> 00:04:00,430

And so I went to
the local school.

58

00:04:00,430 --> 00:04:05,800

And the children
called me retard

59

00:04:05,800 --> 00:04:08,020

because I was tall
for my age, and here I

60

00:04:08,020 --> 00:04:12,220

was in kindergarten
at age seven--

61
00:04:12,220 --> 00:04:15,310
seven and a half.

62
00:04:15,310 --> 00:04:20,709
And they also called me Nazi
because the language that I

63
00:04:20,709 --> 00:04:22,900
spoke was German.

64
00:04:22,900 --> 00:04:24,610
German.

65
00:04:24,610 --> 00:04:32,670
And Aunt Helen was a
very troubled woman.

66
00:04:32,670 --> 00:04:37,470
And it was very hard for
her to take this child

67
00:04:37,470 --> 00:04:41,190
who had come from
a war-torn country

68
00:04:41,190 --> 00:04:48,570
and who was the granddaughter
of this handsome older brother

69
00:04:48,570 --> 00:04:51,280
that she idealized.

70
00:04:51,280 --> 00:04:54,920
And I was not a
pretty child at all.

71
00:04:54,920 --> 00:05:04,520
And so she didn't know
quite what to do with me.

72

00:05:04,520 --> 00:05:08,540

She was a little overwhelmed.

73

00:05:08,540 --> 00:05:11,930

Her daughter Perry was
allergic to everything.

74

00:05:11,930 --> 00:05:13,565

And Perry and I shared a room.

75

00:05:13,565 --> 00:05:16,550

76

00:05:16,550 --> 00:05:26,130

And I just remember being truly,
truly unhappy and waiting--

77

00:05:26,130 --> 00:05:28,680

couldn't wait for
the weekends, when

78

00:05:28,680 --> 00:05:31,340

I would go see Tante Siegel.

79

00:05:31,340 --> 00:05:35,700

Tante Siegel was
my father's aunt.

80

00:05:35,700 --> 00:05:38,680

81

00:05:38,680 --> 00:05:44,350

And she is the one who
sponsored my coming to America.

82

00:05:44,350 --> 00:05:52,150

She lived in the Bronx on
the third floor of a walk up,

83

00:05:52,150 --> 00:05:55,130

in a one-bedroom apartment.

84

00:05:55,130 --> 00:05:58,720

This one-bedroom apartment--
as you walked in the door

85

00:05:58,720 --> 00:06:03,010

you look directly at
some French doors covered

86

00:06:03,010 --> 00:06:08,500

by lace curtains that were
the entrance to the bedroom.

87

00:06:08,500 --> 00:06:14,140

And otherwise, you
saw a sofa, couple

88

00:06:14,140 --> 00:06:20,320

of chairs, and a
black telephone,

89

00:06:20,320 --> 00:06:25,330

and a glass bottle
near the telephone

90

00:06:25,330 --> 00:06:27,790

where everyone who
wanted to make a call

91

00:06:27,790 --> 00:06:30,640

had to put in a nickle.

92

00:06:30,640 --> 00:06:34,630

Then there were [NON-ENGLISH]
boxes all over the place.

93

00:06:34,630 --> 00:06:40,420

And they were blue with
white Jewish stars on them.

94

00:06:40,420 --> 00:06:46,450

And they were all for some
cause or other in Israel--

95

00:06:46,450 --> 00:06:50,800

for yeshivas, for
trees, for whatever.

96

00:06:50,800 --> 00:06:56,800

And Tante Siegel
herself was about 4

97

00:06:56,800 --> 00:07:02,530

foot 10 with huge,
round blue eyes,

98

00:07:02,530 --> 00:07:10,870

high cheekbones, a Clara Bow
mouth, and a very, very pretty

99

00:07:10,870 --> 00:07:16,030

face, and blondish-gray hair.

100

00:07:16,030 --> 00:07:20,980

Her uncle-- her
brother, Uncle Charlie,

101

00:07:20,980 --> 00:07:24,730

also was short, but a
little taller than she.

102

00:07:24,730 --> 00:07:28,540

And I met him a
little afterwards.

103

00:07:28,540 --> 00:07:36,950

And he had a farm
in the Adirondacks.

104

00:07:36,950 --> 00:07:40,350

But he had apparently
sold the farm.

105

00:07:40,350 --> 00:07:43,050

He had had five daughters.

106

00:07:43,050 --> 00:07:46,902
He and his wife Sophie had
five daughters, like Daniel.

107
00:07:46,902 --> 00:07:47,730
[LAUGHTER]

108
00:07:47,730 --> 00:07:50,640
And no sons.

109
00:07:50,640 --> 00:07:55,260
So he sold the farm but kept
the bungalow, which was a house.

110
00:07:55,260 --> 00:07:57,285
And there was a man-made lake.

111
00:07:57,285 --> 00:08:00,000

112
00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:03,000
And I remember Uncle
Charlie driving me

113
00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:06,450
in this beat-up black
car over these hairpin

114
00:08:06,450 --> 00:08:11,860
turns at what seemed like
umpteens miles an hour.

115
00:08:11,860 --> 00:08:14,310
Well, of course,
it wasn't, but--

116
00:08:14,310 --> 00:08:18,580
and I remember Uncle
Charlie's huge hands.

117
00:08:18,580 --> 00:08:22,170
He had these hands
with large knuckles.

118
00:08:22,170 --> 00:08:26,130
And when I first saw
Van Gogh's The Potato

119
00:08:26,130 --> 00:08:29,820
Eaters I could always
remember Uncle Charlie,

120
00:08:29,820 --> 00:08:32,200
because that's what
he looked like--

121
00:08:32,200 --> 00:08:35,190
his hands looked like.

122
00:08:35,190 --> 00:08:37,799
Well back to Aunt Helen and--

123
00:08:37,799 --> 00:08:40,320
Tante Siegel and her apartment.

124
00:08:40,320 --> 00:08:43,289
There was a window.

125
00:08:43,289 --> 00:08:46,770
The door was-- the
window was on the left.

126
00:08:46,770 --> 00:08:52,110
And I remember I would sit at
that window for hours and hours

127
00:08:52,110 --> 00:08:58,260
and hours and just
look out and just--

128
00:08:58,260 --> 00:08:59,820
look out.

129
00:08:59,820 --> 00:09:02,340
It was all concrete.

130
00:09:02,340 --> 00:09:07,890
There was some kind
of a basketball court

131
00:09:07,890 --> 00:09:13,920
in a concrete playground
with a high fence, metal

132
00:09:13,920 --> 00:09:14,940
fence around it.

133
00:09:14,940 --> 00:09:18,900
And I would watch people play.

134
00:09:18,900 --> 00:09:21,375
And I remember feeling very sad.

135
00:09:21,375 --> 00:09:26,080

136
00:09:26,080 --> 00:09:29,230
But Tante Siegel
was very, very warm.

137
00:09:29,230 --> 00:09:33,360
And her husband, Uncle Jake,
was a little taller than she--

138
00:09:33,360 --> 00:09:36,700
huge, beak-like nose.

139
00:09:36,700 --> 00:09:39,940
But Uncle Jake
almost never spoke.

140
00:09:39,940 --> 00:09:42,130
He was like a shadow.

141
00:09:42,130 --> 00:09:46,340
So we never knew what he
was thinking or whatever.

142
00:09:46,340 --> 00:09:48,970
He just was there.

143
00:09:48,970 --> 00:09:51,100
But he might as well
have been invisible.

144
00:09:51,100 --> 00:09:53,890

145
00:09:53,890 --> 00:09:57,930
But I loved those times
at Tante Siegel's.

146
00:09:57,930 --> 00:10:02,390

147
00:10:02,390 --> 00:10:05,000
Tante Siegel had two children.

148
00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:08,060
She had Marvin, who
was in the army.

149
00:10:08,060 --> 00:10:09,050
Very good looking.

150
00:10:09,050 --> 00:10:11,810
And I only saw his pictures.

151
00:10:11,810 --> 00:10:16,670
And she had Adele, who
was married to Sid Ronen.

152
00:10:16,670 --> 00:10:19,910
And they were supposed
to move to an apartment

153
00:10:19,910 --> 00:10:22,280
on the other side
of the third floor,

154
00:10:22,280 --> 00:10:26,930
but it wasn't ready, so they
were staying with Tante Siegel,

155
00:10:26,930 --> 00:10:30,020
on the pull-out something.

156
00:10:30,020 --> 00:10:34,760
So to say there was no
room in this apartment--

157
00:10:34,760 --> 00:10:38,360
so the Joint wouldn't
let me live there.

158
00:10:38,360 --> 00:10:44,750
And but I loved going there.

159
00:10:44,750 --> 00:10:51,980
And I heard from my cousin
Sid many years later.

160
00:10:51,980 --> 00:10:58,700
He'd given me a huge teddy bear
which he had won at a fair.

161
00:10:58,700 --> 00:11:03,710
And he was going to give
it to their first child.

162
00:11:03,710 --> 00:11:08,742
But he said, you looked
so sad and needy there

163
00:11:08,742 --> 00:11:10,700
that I thought maybe I'd
better give it to you.

164
00:11:10,700 --> 00:11:11,750
Give it to you, yeah.

165

00:11:11,750 --> 00:11:15,290

So he gave it to me.

166

00:11:15,290 --> 00:11:21,350

And I, very imaginative child,
named this teddy bear [POLISH],,

167

00:11:21,350 --> 00:11:24,890

which means doll in Polish.

168

00:11:24,890 --> 00:11:28,100

But, oh, I loved
that teddy bear.

169

00:11:28,100 --> 00:11:34,130

And that was a happy time.

170

00:11:34,130 --> 00:11:39,310

And Tante Siegel would have
a yummy brunch every Sunday

171

00:11:39,310 --> 00:11:46,180

with whitefish, and sable, and
lox, and bagels, and cheeses,

172

00:11:46,180 --> 00:11:49,780

and tomatoes, and all
kinds of yummy stuff.

173

00:11:49,780 --> 00:11:52,210

Always [NON-ENGLISH].

174

00:11:52,210 --> 00:11:56,080

And I would be doing
dishes, and I inevitably

175

00:11:56,080 --> 00:11:57,880

used the wrong dishtowel.

176

00:11:57,880 --> 00:12:03,380

And we had to go find a place
that had any dirt in Bronx, New

177

00:12:03,380 --> 00:12:03,880

York.

178

00:12:03,880 --> 00:12:06,490

179

00:12:06,490 --> 00:12:07,720

That was a challenge.

180

00:12:07,720 --> 00:12:11,210

181

00:12:11,210 --> 00:12:14,290

So that was Tante Siegel.

182

00:12:14,290 --> 00:12:17,890

I remember once Aunt

Rosa, who always

183

00:12:17,890 --> 00:12:19,780

looked unbelievably chic--

184

00:12:19,780 --> 00:12:21,730

she had a black chignon.

185

00:12:21,730 --> 00:12:23,020

I'm sure she dyed her hair.

186

00:12:23,020 --> 00:12:27,430

But she was very regal

looking, in contrast

187

00:12:27,430 --> 00:12:31,720

to her sister, Aunt

Helen, who always looked

188

00:12:31,720 --> 00:12:39,940

bedraggled and harried in

shapeless house dresses which

189

00:12:39,940 --> 00:12:40,960

were ugly.

190

00:12:40,960 --> 00:12:43,860

191

00:12:43,860 --> 00:12:44,610

Never smiled.

192

00:12:44,610 --> 00:12:47,750

193

00:12:47,750 --> 00:12:55,610

Anyway, Aunt-- Tante Rosa
worked outside the home.

194

00:12:55,610 --> 00:13:00,830

And one day she took
me out for lunch

195

00:13:00,830 --> 00:13:04,220

and to buy me a new skirt.

196

00:13:04,220 --> 00:13:07,160

And the skirt, I
remember, was gray.

197

00:13:07,160 --> 00:13:09,230

And it was kind of full.

198

00:13:09,230 --> 00:13:14,120

Had big pockets with
blue trim on the pocket,

199

00:13:14,120 --> 00:13:15,600

the top part of the pocket.

200

00:13:15,600 --> 00:13:19,410

And I thought it was gorgeous.

201

00:13:19,410 --> 00:13:24,200

And I wore it back
to Aunt Helen's.

202
00:13:24,200 --> 00:13:28,460
But I remember hearing
yelling in the kitchen

203
00:13:28,460 --> 00:13:31,640
where Aunt Helen was
yelling and saying,

204
00:13:31,640 --> 00:13:33,290
why did you take that brat?

205
00:13:33,290 --> 00:13:37,490
Why didn't you take Perry?

206
00:13:37,490 --> 00:13:38,570
She deserves it.

207
00:13:38,570 --> 00:13:41,750
That brat doesn't
deserve anything.

208
00:13:41,750 --> 00:13:46,670
I don't know what Isaac and
that woman were thinking of.

209
00:13:46,670 --> 00:13:58,940
And I decided that I wouldn't
wear the skirt by Aunt Helen's

210
00:13:58,940 --> 00:14:01,930
because all it did was
get Tante Rosa in trouble.

211
00:14:01,930 --> 00:14:03,290
Right.

212
00:14:03,290 --> 00:14:08,240
So I would only wear
it at Tante Siegel's.

213
00:14:08,240 --> 00:14:11,140

214
00:14:11,140 --> 00:14:16,480
Well, one day I remembered--

215
00:14:16,480 --> 00:14:19,030
I was still a bit
of a ring leader.

216
00:14:19,030 --> 00:14:23,140
And Perry was very, very shy.

217
00:14:23,140 --> 00:14:28,630
And I remember saying to Perry,
let's go visit Yitta's room--

218
00:14:28,630 --> 00:14:29,230
Elaine.

219
00:14:29,230 --> 00:14:32,080
At that time she was
called Elaine-- room.

220
00:14:32,080 --> 00:14:35,710
So her room was in the
very front of the house.

221
00:14:35,710 --> 00:14:39,280
And it had one of those
satiny bedspreads that I--

222
00:14:39,280 --> 00:14:43,420
quilted satin and all
these cologne bottles

223
00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:48,130
on a blonde mirrored
dresser, which I thought

224
00:14:48,130 --> 00:14:49,780
was so gorgeous.

225

00:14:49,780 --> 00:14:52,990
And they all smelled so good.

226
00:14:52,990 --> 00:14:59,270
So I remember that was
just a whole new world.

227
00:14:59,270 --> 00:15:03,100
Yitta was-- Elaine wasn't
thrilled that these two

228
00:15:03,100 --> 00:15:03,790
younger--

229
00:15:03,790 --> 00:15:04,570
Right.

230
00:15:04,570 --> 00:15:05,740
--went to her room.

231
00:15:05,740 --> 00:15:07,900
But I think she
forgave us eventually.

232
00:15:07,900 --> 00:15:10,570
But I remember
that was so pretty.

233
00:15:10,570 --> 00:15:13,420

234
00:15:13,420 --> 00:15:20,350
I just remember Aunt
Helen saying that, well,

235
00:15:20,350 --> 00:15:23,740
if you're good I'll
show you a picture

236
00:15:23,740 --> 00:15:29,990
of your grandpa in his soldier
uniform, which I'd never seen.

237
00:15:29,990 --> 00:15:31,210
So I was--

238
00:15:31,210 --> 00:15:33,970
I tried to be so good.

239
00:15:33,970 --> 00:15:36,880
And I was never
quite good enough.

240
00:15:36,880 --> 00:15:38,470
So I never did see that picture.

241
00:15:38,470 --> 00:15:41,750

242
00:15:41,750 --> 00:15:47,025
And I guess I must have been
there for eight or nine months.

243
00:15:47,025 --> 00:15:50,090

244
00:15:50,090 --> 00:15:54,470
And it was a very,
very difficult time,

245
00:15:54,470 --> 00:15:55,840
probably for everyone.

246
00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:56,660
Right.

247
00:15:56,660 --> 00:16:00,590
But I remember it being
very difficult for me.

248
00:16:00,590 --> 00:16:03,780

249
00:16:03,780 --> 00:16:06,630

And I remember the social
worker from the Joint

250
00:16:06,630 --> 00:16:09,230
coming the first time.

251
00:16:09,230 --> 00:16:11,960
And I was warned that
I was to tell her

252
00:16:11,960 --> 00:16:14,240
that I was being
treated beautifully

253
00:16:14,240 --> 00:16:17,540
and that I was very happy.

254
00:16:17,540 --> 00:16:25,900
And the second time
she came I didn't care,

255
00:16:25,900 --> 00:16:34,870
and I told her, I hate it
here, and that I was fed with--

256
00:16:34,870 --> 00:16:35,980
like a dog.

257
00:16:35,980 --> 00:16:41,150
Food was left in
front of the bedroom,

258
00:16:41,150 --> 00:16:48,010
that I was a pretty
awful person.

259
00:16:48,010 --> 00:16:59,800
And the social
worker said, Julie,

260
00:16:59,800 --> 00:17:03,430
we're going to send
you to the country.

261
00:17:03,430 --> 00:17:06,339
You're going to go where
you'll see chickens

262
00:17:06,339 --> 00:17:10,030
and cows and other children.

263
00:17:10,030 --> 00:17:12,460
And I thought, wow,
that's pretty great.

264
00:17:12,460 --> 00:17:15,000

265
00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:18,480
I didn't want to live Tante
Siegel, because I adored her.

266
00:17:18,480 --> 00:17:21,119

267
00:17:21,119 --> 00:17:25,280
So that was pretty
sad, leaving her.

268
00:17:25,280 --> 00:17:29,595
But I-- someone put me in
a pretty new pink dress.

269
00:17:29,595 --> 00:17:32,860

270
00:17:32,860 --> 00:17:36,740
And I remember it
had a belt that

271
00:17:36,740 --> 00:17:41,950
tied in the back and
some flowers on it.

272
00:17:41,950 --> 00:17:44,950

I was eight years old.

273

00:17:44,950 --> 00:17:48,400

I was put on an
airplane and told

274

00:17:48,400 --> 00:17:54,370

that someone from Bellefaire
would meet me at the other end,

275

00:17:54,370 --> 00:17:57,040

in Cleveland.

276

00:17:57,040 --> 00:18:04,210

And so I was being sent to
Bellefaire Jewish Children's

277

00:18:04,210 --> 00:18:08,020

Home for Problem Children.

278

00:18:08,020 --> 00:18:14,460

And it was in Shaker
Heights, Ohio.

279

00:18:14,460 --> 00:18:17,140

[LAUGH]

280

00:18:17,140 --> 00:18:18,640

No chickens.

281

00:18:18,640 --> 00:18:20,110

No cows.

282

00:18:20,110 --> 00:18:21,122

Children, yes.

283

00:18:21,122 --> 00:18:21,622

[LAUGH]

284

00:18:21,622 --> 00:18:23,230

Yes.

285

00:18:23,230 --> 00:18:29,050

But there were cottages,
which were brick buildings.

286

00:18:29,050 --> 00:18:33,730

And we were assigned in
cottages by gender and by age.

287

00:18:33,730 --> 00:18:39,040

And I was put in the little
kids cottage when I first came,

288

00:18:39,040 --> 00:18:43,910

which was run by Aviva
and Chaim Orlin, who

289

00:18:43,910 --> 00:18:45,430

were an Israeli couple.

290

00:18:45,430 --> 00:18:48,170

291

00:18:48,170 --> 00:18:54,490

And they were very nice.

292

00:18:54,490 --> 00:18:59,140

I remember-- what I
remember is at night getting

293

00:18:59,140 --> 00:19:08,560

this horrible medicine, codfish
liver oil and other stuff that

294

00:19:08,560 --> 00:19:10,120

was sweet.

295

00:19:10,120 --> 00:19:15,790

And then we'd get one of those
Mallomar cookies with milk.

296

00:19:15,790 --> 00:19:19,970

Well, that was so delicious.

297
00:19:19,970 --> 00:19:24,340
I also remember a little
girl there named Tanya.

298
00:19:24,340 --> 00:19:28,315
Although she was older than I,
she was almost a head shorter.

299
00:19:28,315 --> 00:19:32,610

300
00:19:32,610 --> 00:19:45,410
And I remember that my
teddy bear had no eyes.

301
00:19:45,410 --> 00:19:48,040
The eyes had been removed.

302
00:19:48,040 --> 00:19:50,830
I don't know whatever
happened to the China doll.

303
00:19:50,830 --> 00:19:51,730
I don't remember.

304
00:19:51,730 --> 00:19:55,930
But I remember that my
teddy bear, who I loved,

305
00:19:55,930 --> 00:19:59,760
had lost his eyes.

306
00:19:59,760 --> 00:20:03,960
And I suspected
that it was Tanya.

307
00:20:03,960 --> 00:20:05,670
So I remember this so clearly.

308
00:20:05,670 --> 00:20:13,200
I said, Tanya, if you tell

me the truth I won't hit you.

309
00:20:13,200 --> 00:20:15,930
So she told me the truth.

310
00:20:15,930 --> 00:20:18,610
Yeah, she did it.

311
00:20:18,610 --> 00:20:22,720
And I felt, now, was
that stupid of me or not?

312
00:20:22,720 --> 00:20:25,400
Why did I say I
wouldn't hit her?

313
00:20:25,400 --> 00:20:27,190
I was mad.

314
00:20:27,190 --> 00:20:28,715
But at least she told the truth.

315
00:20:28,715 --> 00:20:34,190

316
00:20:34,190 --> 00:20:34,880
And--

317
00:20:34,880 --> 00:20:37,700
Did you have any contact with
your grandfather at that point?

318
00:20:37,700 --> 00:20:39,320
No.

319
00:20:39,320 --> 00:20:45,210
They didn't come to
this country until 1951.

320
00:20:45,210 --> 00:20:48,050
So how long did you stay
in this children's--

321
00:20:48,050 --> 00:20:50,310
Till I was 14 and a half.

322
00:20:50,310 --> 00:20:50,810
Oh.

323
00:20:50,810 --> 00:20:51,920
Oh, you stayed there.

324
00:20:51,920 --> 00:20:52,800
Mm-hmm.

325
00:20:52,800 --> 00:20:56,680
In this children's
home in Shaker Heights.

326
00:20:56,680 --> 00:21:01,480
It was Bellefaire-- it
was run by Fritz Mayer,

327
00:21:01,480 --> 00:21:05,290
who was a cohort of
Bruno Bettelheim's.

328
00:21:05,290 --> 00:21:11,830
Whereas Bruno Bettelheim
believed in psychoanalysis,

329
00:21:11,830 --> 00:21:15,380
Fritz Mayer believed
in milieu therapy.

330
00:21:15,380 --> 00:21:21,100
So the Bellefaire was
run on milieu therapy

331
00:21:21,100 --> 00:21:25,930
kind of thing, where we had
all kinds of activities.

332
00:21:25,930 --> 00:21:28,570

333
00:21:28,570 --> 00:21:30,850
We had what woodshop.

334
00:21:30,850 --> 00:21:32,710
We had art.

335
00:21:32,710 --> 00:21:40,970
We had this sugar and
story hour and lots

336
00:21:40,970 --> 00:21:42,740
of books in the library.

337
00:21:42,740 --> 00:21:44,900
And I loved reading.

338
00:21:44,900 --> 00:21:48,680
And apparently
that was my escape.

339
00:21:48,680 --> 00:21:55,610
And I was afraid of
loud noises, uniforms,

340
00:21:55,610 --> 00:21:57,165
and playing hide and seek.

341
00:21:57,165 --> 00:22:02,230

342
00:22:02,230 --> 00:22:05,010
Did you talk about
the war at all?

343
00:22:05,010 --> 00:22:08,630
I had a series of social
workers until one day I said,

344
00:22:08,630 --> 00:22:11,570
I'm not going to talk to you

anymore because you're just

345

00:22:11,570 --> 00:22:13,790

going to leave like
all the others.

346

00:22:13,790 --> 00:22:23,310

And Bellefaire decided to put
me in a trial with University

347

00:22:23,310 --> 00:22:26,430

Hospital, Hanna House.

348

00:22:26,430 --> 00:22:30,720

And they sent me to a child
analyst, Marion Barnes.

349

00:22:30,720 --> 00:22:33,750

350

00:22:33,750 --> 00:22:36,590

And I saw Miss Barnes
for many years.

351

00:22:36,590 --> 00:22:38,160

She was really special.

352

00:22:38,160 --> 00:22:40,290

Good.

353

00:22:40,290 --> 00:22:44,160

And I remember sitting
on this great horsehair

354

00:22:44,160 --> 00:22:48,120

sofa in the waiting
room of Hanna House,

355

00:22:48,120 --> 00:22:51,120

picturing what Miss
Barnes would look like.

356

00:22:51,120 --> 00:22:55,530

And she would be beautiful
with dark hair and--

357

00:22:55,530 --> 00:23:02,150

well, I went into the
office where she was,

358

00:23:02,150 --> 00:23:10,505

and she was middle aged, gray
hair, kind of round, old.

359

00:23:10,505 --> 00:23:13,680

360

00:23:13,680 --> 00:23:16,350

And she said, Julie--

361

00:23:16,350 --> 00:23:17,520

Julia.

362

00:23:17,520 --> 00:23:19,860

I was called Julia
at this point.

363

00:23:19,860 --> 00:23:24,282

I can't be your mother, but I
can be like a favorite aunt.

364

00:23:24,282 --> 00:23:24,990

Aw, that's sweet.

365

00:23:24,990 --> 00:23:27,270

And in fact, she was.

366

00:23:27,270 --> 00:23:32,610

When I was in talent shows,
Miss Barnes was always there.

367

00:23:32,610 --> 00:23:42,000

She gave me my Tiny Tears doll,
who wept and cried real tears,

368

00:23:42,000 --> 00:23:43,335
and my first bicycle.

369

00:23:43,335 --> 00:23:45,950

370

00:23:45,950 --> 00:23:50,780
And when I was singing "Frankie
and Johnny" at the talent show

371

00:23:50,780 --> 00:23:52,460
and looking straight
up at the ceiling

372

00:23:52,460 --> 00:23:55,100
because I was so nervous,
she was sitting there

373

00:23:55,100 --> 00:23:56,585
in the audience clapping.

374

00:23:56,585 --> 00:23:59,440

375

00:23:59,440 --> 00:24:05,640
Miss Barnes was, I think, what
kept me going for a long time.

376

00:24:05,640 --> 00:24:07,120
And did I talk about the war?

377

00:24:07,120 --> 00:24:07,620
Yes.

378

00:24:07,620 --> 00:24:09,660
I talked about my dreams.

379

00:24:09,660 --> 00:24:13,100
I talked about-- yeah, I
talked about a lot of things

380

00:24:13,100 --> 00:24:15,960
with Miss Barnes.

381
00:24:15,960 --> 00:24:18,990
Meanwhile, we had
various social work--

382
00:24:18,990 --> 00:24:21,570
various cottage parents.

383
00:24:21,570 --> 00:24:24,780
We had cottage parents
during the day,

384
00:24:24,780 --> 00:24:28,620
cottage parents at night,
and a permanent couple

385
00:24:28,620 --> 00:24:31,120
who lived with us.

386
00:24:31,120 --> 00:24:35,130
And I remember I was put
in the big girls' cottage--

387
00:24:35,130 --> 00:24:37,830
I think I was 10.

388
00:24:37,830 --> 00:24:44,460
And when my grandparents
came I was close to 11.

389
00:24:44,460 --> 00:24:46,800
And I have some pictures there.

390
00:24:46,800 --> 00:24:54,760
And I remember, I didn't
remember my Polish,

391
00:24:54,760 --> 00:24:56,440
just English.

392

00:24:56,440 --> 00:24:59,605

Grandpa's shoes
squeaked when he walked.

393

00:24:59,605 --> 00:25:02,698

394

00:25:02,698 --> 00:25:05,190

And I remember
Grandpa and Grandma

395

00:25:05,190 --> 00:25:09,150

and I going to the
Fairmount Theater, walking.

396

00:25:09,150 --> 00:25:15,700

397

00:25:15,700 --> 00:25:19,990

And I remember being
a little bit distant

398

00:25:19,990 --> 00:25:25,510

from my grandfather,
grandmother.

399

00:25:25,510 --> 00:25:29,610

And Miss Barnes informed me
that I had acted like a brat.

400

00:25:29,610 --> 00:25:32,743

And I said, yeah.

401

00:25:32,743 --> 00:25:33,910

But you had remembered them.

402

00:25:33,910 --> 00:25:36,620

403

00:25:36,620 --> 00:25:37,120

Yeah.

404

00:25:37,120 --> 00:25:37,760
Yeah.

405
00:25:37,760 --> 00:25:38,260
Yeah.

406
00:25:38,260 --> 00:25:40,360
I remembered them.

407
00:25:40,360 --> 00:25:43,360
But part of what was going on--

408
00:25:43,360 --> 00:25:45,790
Babcia, I told you,
had been tortured.

409
00:25:45,790 --> 00:25:52,560
And sometimes she was
not totally rational.

410
00:25:52,560 --> 00:25:59,960
And she said that I was
so horrible that even

411
00:25:59,960 --> 00:26:01,855
my grandfather didn't
want me around,

412
00:26:01,855 --> 00:26:06,240
and that's why he sent me away.

413
00:26:06,240 --> 00:26:08,450
And I believed that.

414
00:26:08,450 --> 00:26:11,070

415
00:26:11,070 --> 00:26:20,390
And I was also upset
with my grandfather

416
00:26:20,390 --> 00:26:27,260

and also feeling terribly guilty
because my time with his sister

417
00:26:27,260 --> 00:26:27,980
was awful.

418
00:26:27,980 --> 00:26:32,840

419
00:26:32,840 --> 00:26:36,210
So I felt ambivalent
about that visit.

420
00:26:36,210 --> 00:26:36,710
Very.

421
00:26:36,710 --> 00:26:39,920

422
00:26:39,920 --> 00:26:43,230
It was also at--

423
00:26:43,230 --> 00:26:44,750
do you want me to stop?

424
00:26:44,750 --> 00:26:45,420
No, no, no.

425
00:26:45,420 --> 00:26:46,370
I was just--

426
00:26:46,370 --> 00:26:47,730
How much time?

427
00:26:47,730 --> 00:26:49,950
As much as you need.

428
00:26:49,950 --> 00:26:52,250
But I was going to
say, how long did you

429

00:26:52,250 --> 00:26:55,945
stay in the Bellefaire home?

430
00:26:55,945 --> 00:26:57,070
Until what age?

431
00:26:57,070 --> 00:26:57,750
14.

432
00:26:57,750 --> 00:26:58,250
14.

433
00:26:58,250 --> 00:26:59,530
And then?

434
00:26:59,530 --> 00:27:04,720
I went to my first foster
home and then stayed there

435
00:27:04,720 --> 00:27:08,620
for six months and went
to my second foster home.

436
00:27:08,620 --> 00:27:10,600
And that's where I was adopted.

437
00:27:10,600 --> 00:27:12,030
Oh, you were adopted.

438
00:27:12,030 --> 00:27:14,860
Was it in Cleveland?

439
00:27:14,860 --> 00:27:16,690
With phenomenal parents.

440
00:27:16,690 --> 00:27:17,690
Really?

441
00:27:17,690 --> 00:27:18,940
And their names?

442

00:27:18,940 --> 00:27:22,690
Fred and Tea Klejstadt.

443
00:27:22,690 --> 00:27:28,060
And they were
unbelievable people.

444
00:27:28,060 --> 00:27:34,390
And I was so, so lucky,
unbelievably lucky.

445
00:27:34,390 --> 00:27:36,880
I met them first.

446
00:27:36,880 --> 00:27:44,020
Fritz Mayer didn't believe in
our being institutionalized.

447
00:27:44,020 --> 00:27:49,090
So we had big sisters, big
brothers to take us out.

448
00:27:49,090 --> 00:27:51,920
And I met the Klejstadts
with three other girls.

449
00:27:51,920 --> 00:27:54,940
They took us out for a picnic.

450
00:27:54,940 --> 00:28:01,930
And I remember thinking how
beautiful Tea was, and sweet,

451
00:28:01,930 --> 00:28:07,480
and how special I
felt around her.

452
00:28:07,480 --> 00:28:10,780
Fred I thought was nice, but I--

453
00:28:10,780 --> 00:28:14,470
she was warmth itself.

454

00:28:14,470 --> 00:28:18,160

And I had a very dear
friend in Bellefaire

455

00:28:18,160 --> 00:28:21,040

whose name was Joyce.

456

00:28:21,040 --> 00:28:26,120

And we were assigned permanent
big sisters, big brothers.

457

00:28:26,120 --> 00:28:28,360

And I was assigned
the Nisensons,

458

00:28:28,360 --> 00:28:35,510

who were a lovely, warm, large
Jewish family with two sons.

459

00:28:35,510 --> 00:28:40,520

The younger son had some
mental health issues.

460

00:28:40,520 --> 00:28:42,490

And I adored them both.

461

00:28:42,490 --> 00:28:44,710

And they were like
little brothers.

462

00:28:44,710 --> 00:28:47,000

And they were just special.

463

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:52,120

And Flo and Manny Nisenson
were warm as warm could be.

464

00:28:52,120 --> 00:28:56,380

And I was just included in
everything, which was neat,

465

00:28:56,380 --> 00:29:03,330

because I was kind of
a shy, dreamy child

466
00:29:03,330 --> 00:29:06,120
who read all the time.

467
00:29:06,120 --> 00:29:10,200
And I drew a lot, and painted.

468
00:29:10,200 --> 00:29:13,560
At Bellefaire I had an art
teacher who had no thumbs.

469
00:29:13,560 --> 00:29:16,200
And he was a phenomenal man.

470
00:29:16,200 --> 00:29:19,030
And I learned a
great deal from him.

471
00:29:19,030 --> 00:29:20,610
He was Black.

472
00:29:20,610 --> 00:29:24,430
And one of my favorite
counselors was Black.

473
00:29:24,430 --> 00:29:29,020
And I mention that because
we were going to Pymatuning.

474
00:29:29,020 --> 00:29:32,700
Which is a special lake with
all kinds of stuff in Cleveland.

475
00:29:32,700 --> 00:29:37,800
And we were in a big bus with
this counselor and Fritz Mayer.

476
00:29:37,800 --> 00:29:41,280
And we got to Pymatuning.

477

00:29:41,280 --> 00:29:43,920

And someone came up
and said, oh, no, we

478

00:29:43,920 --> 00:29:47,640

don't allow Negroes here.

479

00:29:47,640 --> 00:29:53,190

And so I remember Fritz
Mayer puffing himself up--

480

00:29:53,190 --> 00:29:57,300

"this will not go on.

481

00:29:57,300 --> 00:30:00,720

Come, children, get in the bus."

482

00:30:00,720 --> 00:30:04,150

So "if you don't take one
of us, you take none of us."

483

00:30:04,150 --> 00:30:05,820

So we all left.

484

00:30:05,820 --> 00:30:10,620

But this counselor was
wonderful because, one, we used

485

00:30:10,620 --> 00:30:15,030

to give plays for July 4th.

486

00:30:15,030 --> 00:30:23,130

And she had Paul Robeson,
"Ballad for the Americans."

487

00:30:23,130 --> 00:30:26,170

And so I went to her
house to hear it.

488

00:30:26,170 --> 00:30:30,220

And I was usually
the star or whatever.

489

00:30:30,220 --> 00:30:33,370

So she wanted me
to listen to it.

490

00:30:33,370 --> 00:30:36,030

And I remember that was special.

491

00:30:36,030 --> 00:30:41,160

And then we had cottage
parents who were Mormon.

492

00:30:41,160 --> 00:30:44,860

And he was getting his degree--
advanced degree in chemistry.

493

00:30:44,860 --> 00:30:47,130

So he used to make our shampoos.

494

00:30:47,130 --> 00:30:49,770

And they were smelly, ugh.

495

00:30:49,770 --> 00:30:52,050

But I suppose they were good.

496

00:30:52,050 --> 00:30:54,955

And his wife was
just a sweetie pie.

497

00:30:54,955 --> 00:30:59,940

And they used to play folk
music and a lot of Lead Belly.

498

00:30:59,940 --> 00:31:03,330

So I grew up on Lead Belly.

499

00:31:03,330 --> 00:31:07,260

So you stayed with the
family, the Klejstadts,

500

00:31:07,260 --> 00:31:08,610

and then went to--

501

00:31:08,610 --> 00:31:10,510

Never stayed with them.

502

00:31:10,510 --> 00:31:13,470

I just went on that
picnic with them.

503

00:31:13,470 --> 00:31:16,980

And I was back to Bellefaire.

504

00:31:16,980 --> 00:31:24,120

And I was in elementary school
and at Andrew Jackson Rickoff,

505

00:31:24,120 --> 00:31:29,700

where the teachers stayed
in their rooms and students

506

00:31:29,700 --> 00:31:32,950

went to different teachers
for different subjects.

507

00:31:32,950 --> 00:31:34,880

And I had a math teacher--

508

00:31:34,880 --> 00:31:37,020

this was sixth grade.

509

00:31:37,020 --> 00:31:39,780

Fourth grade was
my first experience

510

00:31:39,780 --> 00:31:42,000

at Andrew Jackson Rickoff.

511

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:47,280

Well, first I went to
a very elegant school,

512

00:31:47,280 --> 00:31:51,870

elementary school, third
grade, near Bellefaire.

513
00:31:51,870 --> 00:31:56,310
And the teacher
thought I was retarded

514
00:31:56,310 --> 00:32:00,660
because I wrote
things backwards.

515
00:32:00,660 --> 00:32:07,560
And she wanted us to have fresh
handkerchiefs pinned on us.

516
00:32:07,560 --> 00:32:10,860
And at Bellefaire we
had these sewing ladies

517
00:32:10,860 --> 00:32:14,040
who would redo clothes so
they would fit us and stuff.

518
00:32:14,040 --> 00:32:16,240
So I went up and I
asked for a hankie.

519
00:32:16,240 --> 00:32:17,320
And they said, [TSK].

520
00:32:17,320 --> 00:32:19,680
And they gave me
a box of Kleenex.

521
00:32:19,680 --> 00:32:21,910
They said, this is
much more sanitary.

522
00:32:21,910 --> 00:32:24,300
So I came in with
my box of Kleenex.

523
00:32:24,300 --> 00:32:29,260
And the teacher was sure
I was definitely retarded.

524
00:32:29,260 --> 00:32:33,290
So Bellefaire
decided to test me.

525
00:32:33,290 --> 00:32:36,010
So I remember having
a battery of tests.

526
00:32:36,010 --> 00:32:39,370
They decided, no,
I wasn't retarded.

527
00:32:39,370 --> 00:32:45,340
And but they also
decided I was artistic,

528
00:32:45,340 --> 00:32:49,210
that Julie needed piano lessons.

529
00:32:49,210 --> 00:32:51,610
Well, we had one piano.

530
00:32:51,610 --> 00:32:54,560
And it was in the playroom.

531
00:32:54,560 --> 00:32:58,000
And I was in the big
girls' cottage now.

532
00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:00,740
Well, Julie had to practice--

533
00:33:00,740 --> 00:33:02,500
Julia.

534
00:33:02,500 --> 00:33:05,800
No one was allowed
in the playroom

535
00:33:05,800 --> 00:33:08,800
when Julia had to practice.

536
00:33:08,800 --> 00:33:10,480
Makes you instantly
popular, doesn't it?

537
00:33:10,480 --> 00:33:10,980
Right.

538
00:33:10,980 --> 00:33:11,650
Right.

539
00:33:11,650 --> 00:33:14,340
I decided, I don't
want piano lessons.

540
00:33:14,340 --> 00:33:17,350
So my piano teacher
and I started

541
00:33:17,350 --> 00:33:19,540
talking about African violets.

542
00:33:19,540 --> 00:33:23,080
And she taught me to knit
instead, which was great.

543
00:33:23,080 --> 00:33:25,600

544
00:33:25,600 --> 00:33:29,090
But I remained very
interested in art.

545
00:33:29,090 --> 00:33:32,170
And anyway--

546
00:33:32,170 --> 00:33:34,270
Can we move on?

547
00:33:34,270 --> 00:33:36,740
Then you went to high school.

548

00:33:36,740 --> 00:33:38,010

Then I went to--

549

00:33:38,010 --> 00:33:43,986

550

00:33:43,986 --> 00:33:47,000

To get to your high school
years, and then on to college.

551

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:50,930

552

00:33:50,930 --> 00:33:57,230

Then I went to my
first foster home.

553

00:33:57,230 --> 00:33:57,730

Right.

554

00:33:57,730 --> 00:33:58,950

And you stayed six months.

555

00:33:58,950 --> 00:34:02,100

And then you went
to your second.

556

00:34:02,100 --> 00:34:06,420

Well, I had met my parents
when I was on that outing

557

00:34:06,420 --> 00:34:07,440

when I was 11.

558

00:34:07,440 --> 00:34:08,139

Yeah, right.

559

00:34:08,139 --> 00:34:08,639

Right.

560

00:34:08,639 --> 00:34:15,080

And they decided then
they wanted to adopt me.

561
00:34:15,080 --> 00:34:15,580
Right.

562
00:34:15,580 --> 00:34:16,520
Right.

563
00:34:16,520 --> 00:34:19,580
And I had a hard time with that.

564
00:34:19,580 --> 00:34:21,710
Didn't want to be adopted.

565
00:34:21,710 --> 00:34:23,449
Took me a long
time to figure out

566
00:34:23,449 --> 00:34:25,889
who I was, and didn't
want to change it.

567
00:34:25,889 --> 00:34:28,880

568
00:34:28,880 --> 00:34:31,550
So I saw Miss Barnes
again to decide whether I

569
00:34:31,550 --> 00:34:34,830
would be adopted or not.

570
00:34:34,830 --> 00:34:39,540
And she helped.

571
00:34:39,540 --> 00:34:41,969
And my grandfather
was very against it.

572
00:34:41,969 --> 00:34:44,190
By this time they

were in the States.

573

00:34:44,190 --> 00:34:47,340

And I used to go see
them every summer.

574

00:34:47,340 --> 00:34:50,909

I couldn't live with
them because they lived

575

00:34:50,909 --> 00:34:53,909

in some pretty awful slums.

576

00:34:53,909 --> 00:34:58,560

And the Joint didn't
think that was safe.

577

00:34:58,560 --> 00:35:05,310

Then, when I went to
my parents, it was--

578

00:35:05,310 --> 00:35:10,170

my mother was an artist.

579

00:35:10,170 --> 00:35:14,020

And I just-- and loved art.

580

00:35:14,020 --> 00:35:17,550

And it was like, wow.

581

00:35:17,550 --> 00:35:23,370

And my father loved
having a daughter.

582

00:35:23,370 --> 00:35:25,780

And it was amazing
to me, because he--

583

00:35:25,780 --> 00:35:30,540

very, very educated,
well-educated man who

584

00:35:30,540 --> 00:35:34,320
did not take to fools lightly.

585
00:35:34,320 --> 00:35:38,280
He had a PhD.

586
00:35:38,280 --> 00:35:42,700
And yet I could--

587
00:35:42,700 --> 00:35:47,050
if I were taking French, we'd
speak French at the table

588
00:35:47,050 --> 00:35:48,700
so that Julie could practice.

589
00:35:48,700 --> 00:35:51,760
And he was very special.

590
00:35:51,760 --> 00:35:52,600
They both were.

591
00:35:52,600 --> 00:35:57,780
And we became very, very close.

592
00:35:57,780 --> 00:36:03,280
And my grandfather
eventually met my parents,

593
00:36:03,280 --> 00:36:06,730
although he didn't
understand adoption.

594
00:36:06,730 --> 00:36:09,170
He thought it was a
form of white slavery.

595
00:36:09,170 --> 00:36:11,950
So I had him come and meet them.

596
00:36:11,950 --> 00:36:14,830
And he fell in love

with my mother.

597

00:36:14,830 --> 00:36:17,860

He thought she was
like his daughter.

598

00:36:17,860 --> 00:36:20,230

And my father was a
good business man.

599

00:36:20,230 --> 00:36:24,600

And that he was
very thrilled about.

600

00:36:24,600 --> 00:36:27,780

So I was adopted.

601

00:36:27,780 --> 00:36:31,590

I skipped a year of high
school because, frankly, I

602

00:36:31,590 --> 00:36:33,690

didn't want to take math.

603

00:36:33,690 --> 00:36:35,070

I was terrible in math.

604

00:36:35,070 --> 00:36:39,670

And at that time they gave you
tests in English and history,

605

00:36:39,670 --> 00:36:43,140

and if you did well you
were put in top track.

606

00:36:43,140 --> 00:36:46,140

And top track meant that
you had to have physics

607

00:36:46,140 --> 00:36:49,620

and you had to have
advanced, advanced math.

608

00:36:49,620 --> 00:36:53,520

So I wanted to skip
a year and skip that.

609

00:36:53,520 --> 00:36:55,230

So I did.

610

00:36:55,230 --> 00:36:58,890

And I graduated.

611

00:36:58,890 --> 00:37:02,890

And my father--

612

00:37:02,890 --> 00:37:06,100

I said, I'm not
going to college.

613

00:37:06,100 --> 00:37:13,240

And my father said, well, it's
not a question of going or not

614

00:37:13,240 --> 00:37:13,740

going.

615

00:37:13,740 --> 00:37:16,500

It's a question
of which college.

616

00:37:16,500 --> 00:37:20,040

So I said, well, I want
to go to Sarah Lawrence.

617

00:37:20,040 --> 00:37:23,100

And my mother said, well--

618

00:37:23,100 --> 00:37:27,690

because I'd met a girl who
looked like a Rembrandt

619

00:37:27,690 --> 00:37:29,730

painting, and--

620

00:37:29,730 --> 00:37:31,590

with her red hair
and everything.

621

00:37:31,590 --> 00:37:33,270

And she went to Sarah Lawrence.

622

00:37:33,270 --> 00:37:33,895

Sarah Lawrence.

623

00:37:33,895 --> 00:37:35,080

So I wanted to go there.

624

00:37:35,080 --> 00:37:40,470

My mother said,
honey, you might want

625

00:37:40,470 --> 00:37:42,390

to go someplace that's
coed, where you'd

626

00:37:42,390 --> 00:37:45,510

be with both boys and girls.

627

00:37:45,510 --> 00:37:49,060

So I also wanted to go to
the University of Chicago.

628

00:37:49,060 --> 00:37:56,160

So my father took me down and
did not like Hyde Park at all,

629

00:37:56,160 --> 00:38:00,840

at all, at all, and said, mm-mm.

630

00:38:00,840 --> 00:38:03,390

You're too young to be in this.

631

00:38:03,390 --> 00:38:06,930

Meanwhile, I had got early
admittance to Antioch.

632

00:38:06,930 --> 00:38:09,000

And I went to see Antioch.

633

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:10,290

I'd just turned 16.

634

00:38:10,290 --> 00:38:13,800

And I couldn't handle
that much freedom.

635

00:38:13,800 --> 00:38:17,370

So I said, I can't
handle that much freedom.

636

00:38:17,370 --> 00:38:21,320

And my father said,
well, I have this idea.

637

00:38:21,320 --> 00:38:23,950

There's a school
that's close to us.

638

00:38:23,950 --> 00:38:28,110

And I would like you to check
it out for your cousin Suzanne,

639

00:38:28,110 --> 00:38:30,870

because not only is it a
good liberal arts school,

640

00:38:30,870 --> 00:38:35,850

but it has a good
conservatory for your cousin.

641

00:38:35,850 --> 00:38:38,430

So I'd like a young
person's opinion.

642

00:38:38,430 --> 00:38:40,170

I said, OK, I'll go with you.

643

00:38:40,170 --> 00:38:41,940

Went with him.

644

00:38:41,940 --> 00:38:44,010

Next thing I know,

I've got an appointment

645

00:38:44,010 --> 00:38:47,220

with Dean Jackson,

dean of admissions.

646

00:38:47,220 --> 00:38:49,880

And Dean Jackson said--

647

00:38:49,880 --> 00:38:51,210

introduces himself.

648

00:38:51,210 --> 00:38:52,770

And my father's sitting there.

649

00:38:52,770 --> 00:38:57,330

And I said, actually,

Dean Jackson, you

650

00:38:57,330 --> 00:39:02,370

don't want to take me, because

I did OK on the English part,

651

00:39:02,370 --> 00:39:05,530

but on the math part--

he said, yeah, I see.

652

00:39:05,530 --> 00:39:08,490

Did you just write your

name and then turn it in?

653

00:39:08,490 --> 00:39:11,440

I said-- he said, yeah.

654

00:39:11,440 --> 00:39:12,720

Hm.

655

00:39:12,720 --> 00:39:17,580

He said, well, you didn't have
your three years of high school

656
00:39:17,580 --> 00:39:18,540
math to get in.

657
00:39:18,540 --> 00:39:24,210
So you'd have to have your
third year of math to get out.

658
00:39:24,210 --> 00:39:27,540
But, yeah, they decided
they would take me.

659
00:39:27,540 --> 00:39:29,730
So my father-- take me?

660
00:39:29,730 --> 00:39:32,280
We're looking at
this for my cousin.

661
00:39:32,280 --> 00:39:36,960
And-- Julie, you know
we just adopted you.

662
00:39:36,960 --> 00:39:41,700
And you've been
with us so little.

663
00:39:41,700 --> 00:39:44,970
And Oberlin is
only an hour away.

664
00:39:44,970 --> 00:39:48,210
And we'd like to
be close to you.

665
00:39:48,210 --> 00:39:50,100
And I said, OK.

666
00:39:50,100 --> 00:39:51,900
And I went to classes.

667

00:39:51,900 --> 00:39:54,840

And I felt so
comfortable, because I'd

668

00:39:54,840 --> 00:39:58,200

gone to Miami, University of--

669

00:39:58,200 --> 00:40:05,160

Miami University in
Ohio, and I hated it.

670

00:40:05,160 --> 00:40:09,090

People were nice enough, but
I was doing a crossword puzzle

671

00:40:09,090 --> 00:40:12,150

and suddenly I was an egg head.

672

00:40:12,150 --> 00:40:16,410

And I'd had enough of
that at high school.

673

00:40:16,410 --> 00:40:19,010

I just wanted a
chance just to be me.

674

00:40:19,010 --> 00:40:21,450

And at Oberlin I could be me.

675

00:40:21,450 --> 00:40:23,320

And I loved that.

676

00:40:23,320 --> 00:40:27,300

I just-- so that's
why I went to Oberlin.

677

00:40:27,300 --> 00:40:29,910

And kept changing majors.

678

00:40:29,910 --> 00:40:32,850

679

00:40:32,850 --> 00:40:36,120

And then, junior year, when
you had to declare your major,

680

00:40:36,120 --> 00:40:39,000

I had most hours
in French and art.

681

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:41,430

And studio art was
a very long major.

682

00:40:41,430 --> 00:40:45,840

And so I decided I
would go for French.

683

00:40:45,840 --> 00:40:51,900

And I had met Larry
when he was a senior

684

00:40:51,900 --> 00:40:54,150

and I was a junior
living at French House.

685

00:40:54,150 --> 00:40:56,820

686

00:40:56,820 --> 00:41:01,500

And he went to the
University of New Hampshire

687

00:41:01,500 --> 00:41:04,680

for graduate school
in chemistry.

688

00:41:04,680 --> 00:41:08,700

And he asked me to marry him--

689

00:41:08,700 --> 00:41:10,800

which is also a funny story.

690

00:41:10,800 --> 00:41:16,680

I called my father to tell
him that I was engaged.

691
00:41:16,680 --> 00:41:18,790
This was my senior year.

692
00:41:18,790 --> 00:41:21,270
I was-- Daddy, I'm engaged.

693
00:41:21,270 --> 00:41:22,920
You're what?

694
00:41:22,920 --> 00:41:25,630
I'm engaged, Daddy.

695
00:41:25,630 --> 00:41:26,560
Quiet.

696
00:41:26,560 --> 00:41:28,180
Silence.

697
00:41:28,180 --> 00:41:31,090
He didn't ask me.

698
00:41:31,090 --> 00:41:33,730
Daddy, he doesn't
want to marry you.

699
00:41:33,730 --> 00:41:38,110
Well, that fell
really like a bomb.

700
00:41:38,110 --> 00:41:41,120
And then, Larry wasn't Jewish.

701
00:41:41,120 --> 00:41:44,350
And my parents were
upset about this.

702
00:41:44,350 --> 00:41:46,930
Everybody was upset about it.

703

00:41:46,930 --> 00:41:55,720

And but Larry was an amazing,
amazing-- is an amazing man.

704

00:41:55,720 --> 00:41:56,760

So you got married.

705

00:41:56,760 --> 00:41:58,630

And then where did you live?

706

00:41:58,630 --> 00:42:00,100

Just summarize where--

707

00:42:00,100 --> 00:42:02,870

And then we lived in
Durham, New Hampshire,

708

00:42:02,870 --> 00:42:04,480

while Larry finished his degree.

709

00:42:04,480 --> 00:42:09,790

And I taught French and Spanish
at the local high school.

710

00:42:09,790 --> 00:42:13,090

Then-- for two years.

711

00:42:13,090 --> 00:42:16,780

Then I had Steve.

712

00:42:16,780 --> 00:42:20,410

You could not teach if you
were pregnant at that time.

713

00:42:20,410 --> 00:42:27,970

And we then-- when Steve
was close to a year

714

00:42:27,970 --> 00:42:34,540

we left and went to
Chicago, Larry's first job.

715

00:42:34,540 --> 00:42:39,120

We stayed in Chicago for
three and a half years.

716

00:42:39,120 --> 00:42:42,370

And then-- well, three years--

717

00:42:42,370 --> 00:42:46,380

then moved to Omaha, Nebraska.

718

00:42:46,380 --> 00:42:49,890

And that's where our
daughter was born.

719

00:42:49,890 --> 00:42:54,210

And she had a naming ceremony.

720

00:42:54,210 --> 00:42:59,520

And Larry decided that he also
wanted to convert, at that.

721

00:42:59,520 --> 00:43:04,950

He had taken a course in
Chicago from Rabbi Divine,

722

00:43:04,950 --> 00:43:10,770

who had them read God, Jews,
and History by Max Dimont.

723

00:43:10,770 --> 00:43:13,980

And Larry thought,
great, this is my thing.

724

00:43:13,980 --> 00:43:17,310

So he decided to convert.

725

00:43:17,310 --> 00:43:22,140

And when he was asked,
so you'll be Avraham.

726

00:43:22,140 --> 00:43:24,180

He said, no, I don't

want to be Avraham.

727

00:43:24,180 --> 00:43:26,550

I want to be Moshe.

728

00:43:26,550 --> 00:43:29,460

So they said, OK, be Moshe.

729

00:43:29,460 --> 00:43:34,560

So that's why you see the
various Moses over there.

730

00:43:34,560 --> 00:43:40,290

And so that's-- we lived in
Nebraska while Larry worked

731

00:43:40,290 --> 00:43:52,440

at the University at a research
place for cancer research that

732

00:43:52,440 --> 00:43:57,450

was a part of the University
of Nebraska Medical School.

733

00:43:57,450 --> 00:44:03,870

Then we came down here, where--

734

00:44:03,870 --> 00:44:09,420

oh, and I got a few
more degrees in Omaha.

735

00:44:09,420 --> 00:44:13,080

I had substitute
taught in Chicago,

736

00:44:13,080 --> 00:44:15,210

where if you could breathe
and walk, I told you,

737

00:44:15,210 --> 00:44:16,020

you could teach.

738

00:44:16,020 --> 00:44:22,470
So-- and then I realized that
I needed much more training

739
00:44:22,470 --> 00:44:26,140
to deal with kids with
problems, which I enjoyed.

740
00:44:26,140 --> 00:44:32,730
And so when we got here I was
going to go on in that field.

741
00:44:32,730 --> 00:44:35,100
And that's what I did.

742
00:44:35,100 --> 00:44:39,030
Can we talk a little bit
about some of your thoughts?

743
00:44:39,030 --> 00:44:40,590
When you were raising
your children,

744
00:44:40,590 --> 00:44:42,690
or when your children
were first born,

745
00:44:42,690 --> 00:44:47,780
even, did that influence--

746
00:44:47,780 --> 00:44:50,145
did it bring back memories
of what you went through?

747
00:44:50,145 --> 00:44:52,520
I mean, your childhood was so
very different than theirs.

748
00:44:52,520 --> 00:44:54,970

749
00:44:54,970 --> 00:44:57,470
Did it influence how you raised

your children, do you think,

750

00:44:57,470 --> 00:44:59,570

because of what you
had gone through--

751

00:44:59,570 --> 00:45:01,910

the trauma and the
challenges that you had had?

752

00:45:01,910 --> 00:45:14,800

753

00:45:14,800 --> 00:45:22,360

I think, in a way, it
certainly influenced our son,

754

00:45:22,360 --> 00:45:25,000

because I made a big,
big thing of having

755

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:27,580

him have a bar mitzvah.

756

00:45:27,580 --> 00:45:32,350

Grandpa wanted to live to
see his great-grandson bar

757

00:45:32,350 --> 00:45:33,327

mitzvahed.

758

00:45:33,327 --> 00:45:36,670

759

00:45:36,670 --> 00:45:38,920

Great-great, I guess, huh?

760

00:45:38,920 --> 00:45:45,800

And so I put some pressure on
Steve to have the bar mitzvah.

761

00:45:45,800 --> 00:45:48,470

And he had a hard
time with that.

762
00:45:48,470 --> 00:45:53,130
And I had Grandpa's
diary translated.

763
00:45:53,130 --> 00:45:56,690
And I think it was a
lot for him to deal

764
00:45:56,690 --> 00:46:00,020
with being the
son of a survivor,

765
00:46:00,020 --> 00:46:02,510
because it kind of fell on him.

766
00:46:02,510 --> 00:46:08,570
And I think the family hero
was Grandpa, who started

767
00:46:08,570 --> 00:46:12,740
a resistance and all of that.

768
00:46:12,740 --> 00:46:16,470
Steve eventually joined the
Rangers, the Airborne Rangers.

769
00:46:16,470 --> 00:46:18,110
And I think that's
partially why.

770
00:46:18,110 --> 00:46:23,770

771
00:46:23,770 --> 00:46:26,800
So I think, yes, to some extent.

772
00:46:26,800 --> 00:46:33,530

773

00:46:33,530 --> 00:46:37,670

I always worried about the
kind of parent I would be,

774

00:46:37,670 --> 00:46:42,200

because my grandma was
at times very difficult.

775

00:46:42,200 --> 00:46:45,590

And I didn't want
to be like that.

776

00:46:45,590 --> 00:46:49,880

But I had had lots and lots
of help as I was growing up.

777

00:46:49,880 --> 00:46:53,750

And I had lots of people who
were very important to me.

778

00:46:53,750 --> 00:46:55,640

I was very blessed in that.

779

00:46:55,640 --> 00:47:00,990

780

00:47:00,990 --> 00:47:10,670

So I think I got demonstrations
of how to love very well.

781

00:47:10,670 --> 00:47:13,890

Are you angry that you had
to go through the terrible--

782

00:47:13,890 --> 00:47:14,390

No.

783

00:47:14,390 --> 00:47:17,300

--times that you did, and
other people who are living--

784

00:47:17,300 --> 00:47:18,020

Not at all.

785
00:47:18,020 --> 00:47:18,960
Other Jews?

786
00:47:18,960 --> 00:47:19,920
Not at all.

787
00:47:19,920 --> 00:47:24,680
I think what I do deal with is--

788
00:47:24,680 --> 00:47:29,680
big time is survivor
guilt. And that--

789
00:47:29,680 --> 00:47:33,470
it's like baggage that you try
to move around and move around,

790
00:47:33,470 --> 00:47:34,400
get rid of.

791
00:47:34,400 --> 00:47:35,900
You don't get rid of it.

792
00:47:35,900 --> 00:47:39,000
But you can move it around.

793
00:47:39,000 --> 00:47:46,060
But, no, no, not at all
if your question is,

794
00:47:46,060 --> 00:47:52,340
do I resent people having a
so-called easier life than I

795
00:47:52,340 --> 00:47:52,840
did.

796
00:47:52,840 --> 00:48:02,210
No, because I feel that
pain is also very personal.

797

00:48:02,210 --> 00:48:03,970

How do you compare
people's pain?

798

00:48:03,970 --> 00:48:07,064

799

00:48:07,064 --> 00:48:12,670

And I don't think it's fair
to say this person's pain is

800

00:48:12,670 --> 00:48:15,400

greater than this.

801

00:48:15,400 --> 00:48:17,410

One thing I did have
great difficulty

802

00:48:17,410 --> 00:48:18,700

with when I went to--

803

00:48:18,700 --> 00:48:26,390

I told you I went to Israel last
with Rabbis for Human Rights,

804

00:48:26,390 --> 00:48:29,300

which was an outstanding trip.

805

00:48:29,300 --> 00:48:31,550

But it was terribly
painful, because I

806

00:48:31,550 --> 00:48:33,830

had gone to Yad Vashem first.

807

00:48:33,830 --> 00:48:35,540

I went early.

808

00:48:35,540 --> 00:48:37,610

And Yad Vashem is
now very different

809

00:48:37,610 --> 00:48:40,518

than it was when I
first went there.

810

00:48:40,518 --> 00:48:41,018

Pardon me.

811

00:48:41,018 --> 00:48:46,700

And it's a huge spread of
acres, which is interesting

812

00:48:46,700 --> 00:48:49,520

because as you
walk through it you

813

00:48:49,520 --> 00:48:52,580

have this feeling of freedom.

814

00:48:52,580 --> 00:48:58,010

And then you come up against
one of the railroad cars.

815

00:48:58,010 --> 00:49:00,260

Or you can walk into various--

816

00:49:00,260 --> 00:49:02,090

but this feeling of freedom.

817

00:49:02,090 --> 00:49:07,400

818

00:49:07,400 --> 00:49:13,850

And there's an awful lot
of lip service played--

819

00:49:13,850 --> 00:49:15,890

paid to the Holocaust--

820

00:49:15,890 --> 00:49:17,870

never again will we have this.

821

00:49:17,870 --> 00:49:19,940
Never again.

822
00:49:19,940 --> 00:49:26,130
But I have great difficulty,
because never again,

823
00:49:26,130 --> 00:49:31,560
but to us, not necessarily
to anyone else.

824
00:49:31,560 --> 00:49:33,660
And that just really--

825
00:49:33,660 --> 00:49:42,330
that hurt my heart to see
what we're all doing in Israel

826
00:49:42,330 --> 00:49:44,010
itself.

827
00:49:44,010 --> 00:49:48,523
And I'm not saying that it's
all one-sided or whatever,

828
00:49:48,523 --> 00:49:49,210
whatever.

829
00:49:49,210 --> 00:49:54,080
But anyway.

830
00:49:54,080 --> 00:49:57,320
So I had great
difficulty with that.

831
00:49:57,320 --> 00:50:00,360
Are you more comfortable
around other survivors?

832
00:50:00,360 --> 00:50:00,860
No.

833

00:50:00,860 --> 00:50:01,430
No?

834
00:50:01,430 --> 00:50:02,330
No.

835
00:50:02,330 --> 00:50:07,070
I'm comfortable around
survivors and non-survivors.

836
00:50:07,070 --> 00:50:14,960

837
00:50:14,960 --> 00:50:19,640
Are there any sights or sounds
or smells in today's world that

838
00:50:19,640 --> 00:50:21,590
triggers memories for you?

839
00:50:21,590 --> 00:50:25,700
When we were first living
in Chicago, Larry and I,

840
00:50:25,700 --> 00:50:29,210
we lived near Michael
Reese Hospital.

841
00:50:29,210 --> 00:50:32,300
And there were always
sirens, sirens.

842
00:50:32,300 --> 00:50:36,110
And sirens used to terrify me.

843
00:50:36,110 --> 00:50:39,920
And so Larry said to me one day,
well, but Julie, think of it

844
00:50:39,920 --> 00:50:41,000
this way.

845

00:50:41,000 --> 00:50:44,465

These are all pregnant
women going to have babies.

846

00:50:44,465 --> 00:50:45,890

[LAUGHTER]

847

00:50:45,890 --> 00:50:49,550

Well, it worked.

848

00:50:49,550 --> 00:50:53,360

And I would just smilingly think
of all these pregnant ladies

849

00:50:53,360 --> 00:50:54,235

going to have babies.

850

00:50:54,235 --> 00:50:54,943

That's wonderful.

851

00:50:54,943 --> 00:50:55,652

That's wonderful.

852

00:50:55,652 --> 00:50:56,720

Yeah, it was wonderful.

853

00:50:56,720 --> 00:50:58,450

Yeah.

854

00:50:58,450 --> 00:51:02,785

Any other sights or sounds or
smells that trigger memories

855

00:51:02,785 --> 00:51:03,285

for you?

856

00:51:03,285 --> 00:51:07,770

857

00:51:07,770 --> 00:51:08,550

Yeah.

858

00:51:08,550 --> 00:51:12,630

When we were in California
and we went to-- sorry--

859

00:51:12,630 --> 00:51:18,900

Hirsch Park to hear a
concert, live concert--

860

00:51:18,900 --> 00:51:21,510

that's where the
Nazis, neo-Nazis,

861

00:51:21,510 --> 00:51:24,450

have their headquarters.

862

00:51:24,450 --> 00:51:31,020

And I saw them in their
uniforms, marching around.

863

00:51:31,020 --> 00:51:33,430

And I was beside myself.

864

00:51:33,430 --> 00:51:35,280

I was so livid.

865

00:51:35,280 --> 00:51:37,740

And I was with my
brother-in-law and my husband

866

00:51:37,740 --> 00:51:40,890

and my three-year-old son.

867

00:51:40,890 --> 00:51:43,800

And I broke free from them.

868

00:51:43,800 --> 00:51:48,270

And I went up to the
Nazis and I said,

869

00:51:48,270 --> 00:51:53,700

you are such worthless,
worthless people.

870
00:51:53,700 --> 00:51:55,680
"Well, we have the
right to believe what"--

871
00:51:55,680 --> 00:51:56,940
I said, yes.

872
00:51:56,940 --> 00:52:03,810
And you're doing it in a park
that was contributed by Jews.

873
00:52:03,810 --> 00:52:06,470
I said, huh.

874
00:52:06,470 --> 00:52:07,920
And I said, I just--

875
00:52:07,920 --> 00:52:13,220
I think you are such
the crap of the Earth.

876
00:52:13,220 --> 00:52:17,450
I said, and that's
my freedom of speech.

877
00:52:17,450 --> 00:52:19,280
Did you tell them
where you came from?

878
00:52:19,280 --> 00:52:19,980
No.

879
00:52:19,980 --> 00:52:20,970
No.

880
00:52:20,970 --> 00:52:21,470
No.

881
00:52:21,470 --> 00:52:25,060
But Larry was-- and Jim
were ready to save me

882
00:52:25,060 --> 00:52:27,800
and so forth and so on.

883
00:52:27,800 --> 00:52:30,410
What are your thoughts
about Germany?

884
00:52:30,410 --> 00:52:36,860
You know, the first
time I went to Germany--

885
00:52:36,860 --> 00:52:40,500
well, it was actually the
second time I went to Germany.

886
00:52:40,500 --> 00:52:41,810
I had great difficulty.

887
00:52:41,810 --> 00:52:44,600
I had come from France.

888
00:52:44,600 --> 00:52:46,700
And I was to meet
Larry in Germany.

889
00:52:46,700 --> 00:52:53,630
We were going to go to Freiburg
because he had a doctor, Herr

890
00:52:53,630 --> 00:52:58,940
Drochei, who had invented
a special kind of rat

891
00:52:58,940 --> 00:53:01,610
for cancer research.

892
00:53:01,610 --> 00:53:06,980
And so I was to meet
Larry there so we

893
00:53:06,980 --> 00:53:09,660

could have a vacation also.

894

00:53:09,660 --> 00:53:11,660

I had come from France.

895

00:53:11,660 --> 00:53:13,760

And I had a glorious time.

896

00:53:13,760 --> 00:53:17,870

And I was sitting there in this
car with these French young men

897

00:53:17,870 --> 00:53:20,390

who were going to Germany
to work because Germany

898

00:53:20,390 --> 00:53:22,460

paid much better wages.

899

00:53:22,460 --> 00:53:26,840

And just as we passed the
border the German police

900

00:53:26,840 --> 00:53:30,830

came on, very officious.

901

00:53:30,830 --> 00:53:33,770

And I got my dander up a bit.

902

00:53:33,770 --> 00:53:35,360

And I had a big suitcase.

903

00:53:35,360 --> 00:53:39,120

And I didn't understand
a word they were saying.

904

00:53:39,120 --> 00:53:40,880

And I could care less.

905

00:53:40,880 --> 00:53:44,210

And the soldiers-- the
French soldiers said,

906
00:53:44,210 --> 00:53:45,650
don't make an issue of this.

907
00:53:45,650 --> 00:53:46,490
It's OK.

908
00:53:46,490 --> 00:53:47,820
We're here for you.

909
00:53:47,820 --> 00:53:49,700
We understand.

910
00:53:49,700 --> 00:53:52,100
They understood nothing,
but they were lovely.

911
00:53:52,100 --> 00:53:54,620
And so they were
gentling me along.

912
00:53:54,620 --> 00:53:56,268
And they got the suitcase down.

913
00:53:56,268 --> 00:53:57,810
And they said,
there's nothing there.

914
00:53:57,810 --> 00:54:00,350
She's an American,
whatever, whatever.

915
00:54:00,350 --> 00:54:02,600
But that was my first taste.

916
00:54:02,600 --> 00:54:06,230
And then I got to
the railroad station.

917
00:54:06,230 --> 00:54:09,480
And I was supposed
to meet Larry there.

918
00:54:09,480 --> 00:54:11,720
He wasn't there.

919
00:54:11,720 --> 00:54:18,500
And I-- there am I with this
huge suitcase, no Larry.

920
00:54:18,500 --> 00:54:21,020
Man comes up to me
because apparently that's

921
00:54:21,020 --> 00:54:23,880
where you pick up prostitutes,
at the train station.

922
00:54:23,880 --> 00:54:25,760
[PHONE RINGING]

923
00:54:25,760 --> 00:54:27,420
And I didn't know.

924
00:54:27,420 --> 00:54:42,580
So I-- then Larry came.

925
00:54:42,580 --> 00:54:44,770
And I was furious with Larry.

926
00:54:44,770 --> 00:54:48,700
And he had gotten the wrong time
that the train was to come in.

927
00:54:48,700 --> 00:54:50,800
And I was so angry with him.

928
00:54:50,800 --> 00:54:54,100

929
00:54:54,100 --> 00:54:56,470
Then we had an interesting--

930

00:54:56,470 --> 00:54:57,520
we stayed at the--

931
00:54:57,520 --> 00:55:00,400
I called it the rat house.

932
00:55:00,400 --> 00:55:03,190
We stayed there for a night.

933
00:55:03,190 --> 00:55:08,620
And then Herr Dr. Drochei
invited us to his apartment.

934
00:55:08,620 --> 00:55:10,870
So Larry and I went there.

935
00:55:10,870 --> 00:55:14,320
And I saw this man
who was a caricature--

936
00:55:14,320 --> 00:55:15,250
a dueling scar.

937
00:55:15,250 --> 00:55:19,870

938
00:55:19,870 --> 00:55:22,390
I think he was wearing
a monocle, even.

939
00:55:22,390 --> 00:55:24,010
I think so.

940
00:55:24,010 --> 00:55:27,080
And he kissed my hand.

941
00:55:27,080 --> 00:55:30,190
And like that with his feet.

942
00:55:30,190 --> 00:55:32,110
And I looked at Larry.

943

00:55:32,110 --> 00:55:35,650

944

00:55:35,650 --> 00:55:40,930

And he said, oh, how
nice to meet Larry--

945

00:55:40,930 --> 00:55:43,480

he spoke German and
French, no English.

946

00:55:43,480 --> 00:55:53,940

Nice to meet Larry
and his French wife.

947

00:55:53,940 --> 00:56:04,230

And I said,
[SPEAKING FRENCH] just

948

00:56:04,230 --> 00:56:06,930

like that, because
I thought, I will

949

00:56:06,930 --> 00:56:08,880

clear the air with this jerk.

950

00:56:08,880 --> 00:56:10,890

And we're sitting down.

951

00:56:10,890 --> 00:56:12,780

And he's giving
me the party line.

952

00:56:12,780 --> 00:56:15,000

We're talking the
problems with America--

953

00:56:15,000 --> 00:56:17,550

they're all due
to miscegenation--

954

00:56:17,550 --> 00:56:19,320

all in French.

955

00:56:19,320 --> 00:56:21,930

And I'm thinking,
I can't believe

956

00:56:21,930 --> 00:56:24,970

that this guy is still around.

957

00:56:24,970 --> 00:56:27,720

He's a Nazi so-and-so.

958

00:56:27,720 --> 00:56:29,460

And Larry said,
no, no, no, no, he

959

00:56:29,460 --> 00:56:31,140

wouldn't have this
position, Julie.

960

00:56:31,140 --> 00:56:32,280

He can't be a Nazi.

961

00:56:32,280 --> 00:56:33,250

No way.

962

00:56:33,250 --> 00:56:33,750

No way.

963

00:56:33,750 --> 00:56:36,570

We came back, and
we were having lunch

964

00:56:36,570 --> 00:56:41,100

with Umberto Saffioti,
who was at the NIH, who

965

00:56:41,100 --> 00:56:42,390

is a sweetheart.

966

00:56:42,390 --> 00:56:47,520

And Umberto said, so, how

was lunch with a Nazi?

967

00:56:47,520 --> 00:56:49,600

And Larry said, what?

968

00:56:49,600 --> 00:56:50,670

He said, oh, yeah.

969

00:56:50,670 --> 00:56:52,680

Yeah, Drochei was a Nazi.

970

00:56:52,680 --> 00:56:54,435

Didn't you know that, Larry?

971

00:56:54,435 --> 00:56:57,240

And I said, hmm.

972

00:56:57,240 --> 00:57:00,330

And but Larry is so naive.

973

00:57:00,330 --> 00:57:02,870

He's so naive.

974

00:57:02,870 --> 00:57:03,450

Yeah.

975

00:57:03,450 --> 00:57:04,050

So.

976

00:57:04,050 --> 00:57:06,280

Do you feel any
nostalgia for Poland?

977

00:57:06,280 --> 00:57:06,780

None.

978

00:57:06,780 --> 00:57:09,550

979

00:57:09,550 --> 00:57:12,280

Even though you were born there.

980
00:57:12,280 --> 00:57:15,450
I don't remember a
pretty or nice Poland.

981
00:57:15,450 --> 00:57:20,730
What I want to see is to
find out where things were

982
00:57:20,730 --> 00:57:22,080
and so forth and so on.

983
00:57:22,080 --> 00:57:23,080
But nostalgia?

984
00:57:23,080 --> 00:57:23,580
No.

985
00:57:23,580 --> 00:57:24,540
Have you been back?

986
00:57:24,540 --> 00:57:25,110
No.

987
00:57:25,110 --> 00:57:25,622
Never.

988
00:57:25,622 --> 00:57:26,580
Do you want to go back?

989
00:57:26,580 --> 00:57:27,240
Yes.

990
00:57:27,240 --> 00:57:30,635
Larry and I will be going back.

991
00:57:30,635 --> 00:57:32,010
He's going to go
first because he

992
00:57:32,010 --> 00:57:34,230

has to give a speech in Krakow.

993

00:57:34,230 --> 00:57:38,220

And then he'll
trace a few things.

994

00:57:38,220 --> 00:57:42,060

And we're going to go, I
think, maybe, to even Warsaw,

995

00:57:42,060 --> 00:57:44,760

to the Jewish
Information Institute

996

00:57:44,760 --> 00:57:48,690

to find out what we
can about my sister.

997

00:57:48,690 --> 00:57:50,090

Because she was never found.

998

00:57:50,090 --> 00:57:51,420

Never found, no.

999

00:57:51,420 --> 00:57:53,076

No.

1000

00:57:53,076 --> 00:57:55,050

Would you go back to Lvov?

1001

00:57:55,050 --> 00:57:55,830

Sure.

1002

00:57:55,830 --> 00:57:57,360

That's where-- yeah.

1003

00:57:57,360 --> 00:58:01,230

Which is now, of course,
L'viv and is the Ukraine.

1004

00:58:01,230 --> 00:58:02,850

Yeah.

1005
00:58:02,850 --> 00:58:03,750
I want to go back.

1006
00:58:03,750 --> 00:58:06,900
I want to see where things are.

1007
00:58:06,900 --> 00:58:10,890
I was talking to Theresa, who
works at the Holocaust Museum.

1008
00:58:10,890 --> 00:58:13,810
And Theresa had gone to L'viv--

1009
00:58:13,810 --> 00:58:15,390
L'viv.

1010
00:58:15,390 --> 00:58:16,630
--just two years ago.

1011
00:58:16,630 --> 00:58:19,170
And she had some
wonderful pictures.

1012
00:58:19,170 --> 00:58:24,010
She also showed me
this huge hospital.

1013
00:58:24,010 --> 00:58:28,150
And she said, yeah, that
was a big Jewish hospital.

1014
00:58:28,150 --> 00:58:31,090
Nowhere does it say that
it was a Jewish hospital.

1015
00:58:31,090 --> 00:58:31,590
Interesting.

1016
00:58:31,590 --> 00:58:33,150
But it's-- yeah.

1017

00:58:33,150 --> 00:58:35,245

Do you feel totally assimilated?

1018

00:58:35,245 --> 00:58:36,120

To the United States?

1019

00:58:36,120 --> 00:58:36,720

In the States?

1020

00:58:36,720 --> 00:58:39,345

I feel very grateful
to the United States.

1021

00:58:39,345 --> 00:58:40,230

Do you feel American?

1022

00:58:40,230 --> 00:58:40,755

Oh, yes.

1023

00:58:40,755 --> 00:58:41,880

Oh, yes.

1024

00:58:41,880 --> 00:58:42,860

Very much so.

1025

00:58:42,860 --> 00:58:45,990

1026

00:58:45,990 --> 00:58:46,490

Yeah.

1027

00:58:46,490 --> 00:58:54,560

1028

00:58:54,560 --> 00:58:56,870

Do you consider yourself
a religious person?

1029

00:58:56,870 --> 00:58:58,220

Not at all.

1030

00:58:58,220 --> 00:58:59,610

Because of what
you went through?

1031

00:58:59,610 --> 00:59:00,110

No.

1032

00:59:00,110 --> 00:59:02,115

Because of what-- being Jewish?

1033

00:59:02,115 --> 00:59:02,615

No.

1034

00:59:02,615 --> 00:59:05,730

1035

00:59:05,730 --> 00:59:11,160

I had a period in my life
where I was conservative.

1036

00:59:11,160 --> 00:59:14,550

I really liked Young Judaea
and what it stood for.

1037

00:59:14,550 --> 00:59:19,540

And then B'nai B'rith
and B'nai B'rith Girls.

1038

00:59:19,540 --> 00:59:23,620

And, no, I'm not
religious at all.

1039

00:59:23,620 --> 00:59:24,600

But do you feel Jewish?

1040

00:59:24,600 --> 00:59:25,860

Absolutely.

1041

00:59:25,860 --> 00:59:29,700

Oh, I feel that
Judaism is my core.

1042

00:59:29,700 --> 00:59:34,920

And everything that I feel

I stand for is, at basis,

1043

00:59:34,920 --> 00:59:37,230

Judaism.

1044

00:59:37,230 --> 00:59:39,480

Do your children

feel very Jewish?

1045

00:59:39,480 --> 00:59:40,830

Would they consider themselves--

1046

00:59:40,830 --> 00:59:43,290

My son, not at all.

1047

00:59:43,290 --> 00:59:44,640

Not at all.

1048

00:59:44,640 --> 00:59:50,760

He doesn't believe in

any religion, he says.

1049

00:59:50,760 --> 00:59:58,170

My daughter, who's also married

to someone who's not Jewish,

1050

00:59:58,170 --> 01:00:01,170

believes very strongly in

raising her son Jewish.

1051

01:00:01,170 --> 01:00:07,310

1052

01:00:07,310 --> 01:00:10,850

She's kind of eclectic

in what she believes.

1053

01:00:10,850 --> 01:00:14,015

But she wants her son

to be raised Jewish.

1054
01:00:14,015 --> 01:00:17,320

1055
01:00:17,320 --> 01:00:20,705
And my grandsons-- the
older two were barmitzvahed.

1056
01:00:20,705 --> 01:00:24,280

1057
01:00:24,280 --> 01:00:26,860
Do you think you
are the person who

1058
01:00:26,860 --> 01:00:31,270
you are today because of
your childhood and your life,

1059
01:00:31,270 --> 01:00:34,827
that you would have been very
different if your life hadn't

1060
01:00:34,827 --> 01:00:35,535
been what it was?

1061
01:00:35,535 --> 01:00:41,650

1062
01:00:41,650 --> 01:00:49,370
I think that I owe the
world a great deal.

1063
01:00:49,370 --> 01:01:04,060
And I think that that's
kind of been my life's work,

1064
01:01:04,060 --> 01:01:07,830
in educational
equity and evening--

1065
01:01:07,830 --> 01:01:12,670

making even the playing
field all the way around.

1066
01:01:12,670 --> 01:01:15,340
And I believe in that.

1067
01:01:15,340 --> 01:01:18,100
And that probably comes
from being a survivor.

1068
01:01:18,100 --> 01:01:21,860

1069
01:01:21,860 --> 01:01:28,340
Why did I, useless me, survive
and so many good and fabulous

1070
01:01:28,340 --> 01:01:31,320
people didn't?

1071
01:01:31,320 --> 01:01:35,160
And that is the question
that can never be answered.

1072
01:01:35,160 --> 01:01:38,090
But, so, yes.

1073
01:01:38,090 --> 01:01:44,210
I also feel that I was
so, so unbelievably lucky.

1074
01:01:44,210 --> 01:01:49,250
I had parents I absolutely
adored and were such

1075
01:01:49,250 --> 01:01:54,090
a huge influence on my life.

1076
01:01:54,090 --> 01:01:55,710
These are the people
who adopted you.

1077

01:01:55,710 --> 01:01:56,280
Yes.

1078
01:01:56,280 --> 01:01:56,780
Yeah.

1079
01:01:56,780 --> 01:01:59,870

1080
01:01:59,870 --> 01:02:00,370
Yeah.

1081
01:02:00,370 --> 01:02:05,700

1082
01:02:05,700 --> 01:02:08,580
And I believe I was
very, very lucky

1083
01:02:08,580 --> 01:02:16,360
in my husband, who is just
such an incredibly good man.

1084
01:02:16,360 --> 01:02:18,960
I mean, I don't know
many people who--

1085
01:02:18,960 --> 01:02:23,910
Larry, I-- [? Geta ?]
said I should ask you,

1086
01:02:23,910 --> 01:02:26,670
because I'd like to bring
this kid home to live with us.

1087
01:02:26,670 --> 01:02:27,945
What do you think?

1088
01:02:27,945 --> 01:02:33,250
He said, oh, if you
think it's OK it's OK.

1089

01:02:33,250 --> 01:02:35,920
So we had gang leaders
living with us.

1090
01:02:35,920 --> 01:02:39,400

1091
01:02:39,400 --> 01:02:40,290
This was where?

1092
01:02:40,290 --> 01:02:41,030
This was--

1093
01:02:41,030 --> 01:02:41,530
Here.

1094
01:02:41,530 --> 01:02:44,490

1095
01:02:44,490 --> 01:02:46,380
When you say you--

1096
01:02:46,380 --> 01:02:49,140
I was an assistant
principal at Blair.

1097
01:02:49,140 --> 01:02:50,760
And this was a kid--

1098
01:02:50,760 --> 01:02:53,370
one of them was a
kid I kicked out.

1099
01:02:53,370 --> 01:02:55,185
And then I kicked him out--

1100
01:02:55,185 --> 01:02:57,090
well, I suspended
him for fighting.

1101
01:02:57,090 --> 01:03:00,280
He came right back and

fought the same kid again.

1102
01:03:00,280 --> 01:03:03,660
So I had him up for
possible expulsion.

1103
01:03:03,660 --> 01:03:07,780
And he had lots of problems.

1104
01:03:07,780 --> 01:03:09,205
And he came here to live.

1105
01:03:09,205 --> 01:03:12,310
Wonderful.

1106
01:03:12,310 --> 01:03:12,810
Yeah.

1107
01:03:12,810 --> 01:03:14,130

1108
01:03:14,130 --> 01:03:17,190
Before we close, any message
to your grandchildren

1109
01:03:17,190 --> 01:03:18,630
that you'd like
to leave for them?

1110
01:03:18,630 --> 01:03:27,970

1111
01:03:27,970 --> 01:03:31,780
It's not what
happens to you, it's

1112
01:03:31,780 --> 01:03:39,150
how you react to what
happens to you that matters.

1113
01:03:39,150 --> 01:03:43,440
And that I know

that they are all

1114
01:03:43,440 --> 01:03:48,510
bright, capable, and
strong young men.

1115
01:03:48,510 --> 01:03:50,640
And I know that
they will be great.

1116
01:03:50,640 --> 01:03:53,360

1117
01:03:53,360 --> 01:03:55,970
And how proud and pleased
I am to have them.

1118
01:03:55,970 --> 01:03:59,800

1119
01:03:59,800 --> 01:04:00,300
Yeah.

1120
01:04:00,300 --> 01:04:03,190

1121
01:04:03,190 --> 01:04:04,660
Well, that's a lovely--

1122
01:04:04,660 --> 01:04:06,160
certainly a lovely
note to end on.

1123
01:04:06,160 --> 01:04:07,640
[LAUGHTER]

1124
01:04:07,640 --> 01:04:10,570
I don't know about that, but--

1125
01:04:10,570 --> 01:04:13,840
This concludes the United
States Holocaust Memorial Museum

1126
01:04:13,840 --> 01:04:16,770
interview with Julie Keefer.

1127
01:04:16,770 --> 01:04:19,117